

Appl. No. 10/826,167
Amdt. dated May 12, 2008
Reply to Office action of Jan. 18, 2008

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1-4. These sheets replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-4. The Applicant has enclosed red-lined drawing sheets for Figs. 1-4 which depict the proposed corrections, namely the missing legends, in red.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

In view of both the amendments presented above and the following discussion, the Applicant submits that none of the claims now pending in the application is obvious under the provisions of 35 USC § 103. Thus, the Applicant believes that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, the Examiner should telephone Mr. Peter L. Michaelson, Esq. at (732) 542-7800 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Specification amendments

Various amendments have been made to the specification to correct minor inadvertent grammatical, punctuation, idiomatic and formal errors.

The Applicant has also now amended the specification to include, between existing paragraphs 37 and 38, various additional paragraphs which describe Figs. 1-4 of the drawings -- a description of which was missing from the specification and to which, as noted below, the Examiner has objected. These additional paragraphs are based on existing paragraphs 13-17 of the specification and the claims, both as originally filed, though with appropriate reference numerals inserted.

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A substitute specification is submitted herewith. The substitute specification introduces no new matter into the application. Moreover, in accordance with the provisions of M.P.E.P. Section 608.01(q), the Applicant has also enclosed a "marked-up" copy of the specification. The substitute specification contains the same changes that are shown in the marked-up copy of the specification.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the Applicant's drawings, as filed, owing to their inadvertent omission of appropriate legends both for components and for packets.

In response, the Applicant has enclosed red-lined drawing sheets for Figs. 1-4 which depict the proposed corrections, namely the missing legends, in red. The Applicant now solicits the Examiner's approval of these corrections.

To facilitate prosecution, the Applicant has also enclosed appropriately corrected substitute drawing sheets for these figures which incorporate all the proposed corrections.

The Examiner also objected to the drawings, as filed, as not having been described in the specification. As discussed above, the Applicant has now amended the specification to insert a description of the drawings.

Status of claims

To simplify the Examiner's understanding of the claims and expedite their prosecution, the Applicant, rather than re-writing the claims to include numerous changes, has canceled all the prior claims 1-29 and substituted new claims 30-55 there for.

New independent claim 30 contains substantive limitations from prior independent claim 1 and prior dependent claims 14, 15 and 16; while new independent claim 53 contains substantive limitations from prior independent claim 27 and counterpart limitations to those in prior dependent claims 14, 15 and 16. Claims 14, 15 and 16 have not replaced by any new corresponding claims.

To facilitate understanding, the following table shows the correspondence between the claims, as filed, and those now pending.

Present Claim	Prior Claim(s)	Present Claim	Prior Claim(s)	Present Claim	Prior Claim(s)
30	1+14+15 +16	40	11	47	21
31	2	41	12	48	22
32	3	42	13	49	23
33	4	None	14	50	24
34	5	None	15	51	25
35	6	None	16	52	26
36	7	43	17	53	27+14+15 +16*

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37	8	44	18	54	28
38	9	45	19	55	29
39	10	46	20		

* method claim counterparts to apparatus claims 14-16

Objections/Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to prior claims 16-26 as being dependent on a rejected base claim but indicated that these claims would be allowable if appropriately rewritten to include all the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

In response, the Applicant has formed new independent apparatus claim 30 by essentially combining the substantive limitations of prior independent apparatus claim 1 and dependent claims 14, 15 and 16. Likewise, since prior independent claim 27 was a method claim counterpart to prior apparatus claim 1, the Applicant has similarly formed new independent method claim 53 by essentially combining the substantive limitations of prior independent method claim 27 and method claim counterparts to the limitations in dependent apparatus claims 14, 15 and 16. Accordingly, each of these new independent claims is now allowable.

All the Applicant's dependent claims, i.e. claims 31-52 and 54-55 depend from new independent claims 30 and 53, respectively. As such, each of these dependent claims is also now allowable as well.

Hence, this objection should be withdrawn.

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Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 14, 15 and 27, as originally filed, under the provisions of 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over the teachings in the Sherman patent (United States patent 6,831,912 issued to J. H. Sherman on December 14, 2004) taken in view of those in the Link et al patent (United States patent 6,012,096 issued to C. A. Link et al on January 4, 2000).

The Examiner has also rejected dependent claims 2-5, 8, 9, 11-13, 28 and 29, as originally filed, under the provisions of 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over the teachings in the Sherman patent taken in view of the Link et al patent and further in view of the teachings in the Bapat patent (United States patent 5,862,326 issued to S. Bapat on January 19, 1999).

All these claims have now been canceled.

Further, in light of the amendments now made to the claims and the discussion above, this rejection is moot with no further comments being necessary.

Conclusion


Consequently, the Applicant believes that all the pending claims are presently in condition for allowance.

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Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and
its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

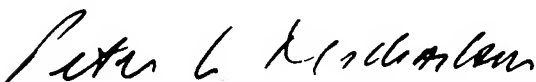
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30,090
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